

Up with the sparrows

In the first of this new A Day In The Life Of... series we take a page out of Mortgage Ezy CEO *Garry Driscoll's* calendar



Garry Driscoll

“
Excel is the greatest program ever written – you could run a small country using nothing but Excel
”

0530h

Usually awake before the alarm, out of bed, glass of lemon juice – I'm told it's good for you – and then walk down to the beach at Surfers Paradise. Fortunately it's only a block away so no need for any footwear. Usually walk on the beach for an hour each morning which is a great way to start the day. There are always interesting sights on the beach at that time of morning, no matter which day of the week.

0800h

Into the office and the first thing is a long black to start the day. Cut back to one per day from a high of eight so that must be a good thing. Check e-mails and my calendar and prioritise my tasks for the day. Check previous day's application, approvals and settlements and our month to date figures. Today they're looking strong so a good start to the working day.

0830h

Weekly executive meeting to discuss any issues. Meetings are informal and debate is often vigorous.

1000h

Catch up on e-mail and respond to any phone calls. Try to have a wander around the office and say hello to everyone.

1030h

All-staff meeting for five minutes. This is a weekly meeting to update staff on what's happening this week and a chance for anyone to ask questions. True democracy in action! Today no one asked me any hard ones. Bonus!

1100h

Meeting with IT development team to discuss new software. We've been building the new mortgage management platform for 18 months and are due to roll out in a few weeks so everything is getting urgent.

1130h

Meet with Wiz and Kat to review the latest marketing for MPA. Looks good and it's really poking fun at the majors. Who cares if they don't have a sense of humour! The artwork

looks great and I'm thankful they don't have to rely on me to come up with the creative ideas.

1200h

Again follow up on the e-mails and harass sales and credit departments.

1300h

Grab a salad for lunch and go for a walk around the block to get some fresh air.

1330h

Check and sign off the upfront commissions. This is a daily task so it's important we don't miss this job.

1400h

Sit down with my EA and go through any documents that need signing.

1430h

Spend the next hour or so responding to e-mails and calls, attending to whatever comes up.

1600h

Teleconference with Joe Sirianni, James Symond and Matt Lawler on the MFAA Strategic Plan Advisory Group. This is a regular meeting to track progress of the new strategic plan for the MFAA. This will have a profound impact, so we need to get it right. I believe people will look back at this time and say this was when working in the industry moved from being a job to a profession.

1700h

Check and release the banking for the day.

1730h

Back to e-mails and correspondence. Try to get as much as possible completed before the brain goes numb. When that happens usually do some spreadsheet work which requires more grunt than thought. I believe Excel is the greatest program ever written – you could run a small country using nothing but Excel.

1900h

Time to head home and put the feet up and have a nice red.